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## THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING



You don't need to know or understand *The Theory of Everything* to see why Eddie Redmayne won the best actor Oscar last year. The story of Stephen Hawking is amazing and compelling as is, but in the skilled and intensely choreographed movements and expressions of Redmayne, we feel some of the pain that Hawking might have. I also speak, of course, of the psychological pain of having your ability to communicate interrupted so severely and of the love and dedication that kept this great mind alive in the loyal care of his wife, Jane.

Jane Hawking is fearlessly portrayed by Felicity Jones, and her performance provides meaning to the phrase "Behind every great man, there is a woman". In the case of Stephen and Jane, we see that the greater the man, the greater the woman and the greater the love. The story is beautifully and sensitively told from the first moments of their new love to the next moments – and on and on; each memory captured in time and space.

Stephen Hawking changed the way we look at the universe and at ourselves. He made time more precious for us because he knows how truly miraculous it is. As he descended into what could have been a black hole of self-pity or hopelessness, he instead chose to use his amazing intellect and understanding of the universe to create and develop unique relationships that challenge the way we might think about the time we spend with one another. Redmayne says so much with each pained expression of timeless suffering. Stephen Hawking has led a triumphant life, worthy of a triumphant performance.

Astrophysics aside, I believe that embedded inside the theory of everything is human evolution and creation. It is embedded in the DNA of what we create together out of our love for one another. That love is evident in this film and in the honest way the relationships develop, grow and change over time. John Lennon said it best when he reminded us that in the end, "The love we take is equal to the love we make". *The Theory of Everything* is a love letter to all of us. This is a true romance.

I cannot imagine the world without Stephen Hawking in it. I remember as a child seeing him speak, using the artificial voice, and thinking how amazing he is. On the day that his brilliant mind is separated from his body, a bright light will extinguish and an even brighter one will expand into the infinite universe. *The Theory of Everything* is a story that will make you laugh and cry, and feel grateful for any love you have in your life. Some might think that Hawking was unlucky in his fate but I don't. I think only someone



as advanced as he could have done as much as he did in spite of it all. He didn't do it alone. The relationships that he has, the love of his family and the support of a

society that appreciated his value are the energy that has helped him stay with us.

I give *The Theory of Everything* five golden tickets.

